

*James D. Miller* 5

THE TRUE  
GOSPEL of CHRIST;

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A Plain ANSWER to that Important  
QUESTION,

*What shall I do to be saved?*

In which is considered, 1. What is Saving Faith, or what does a Person do in believing to the Saving of the Soul. 2. What is the Faith of Simon, or the Stony Ground Hearers. 3. What is the Faith of Devils. 4. What is a Dead Faith. 5. What must a Person do, that does not know what Faith or the Gospel is.

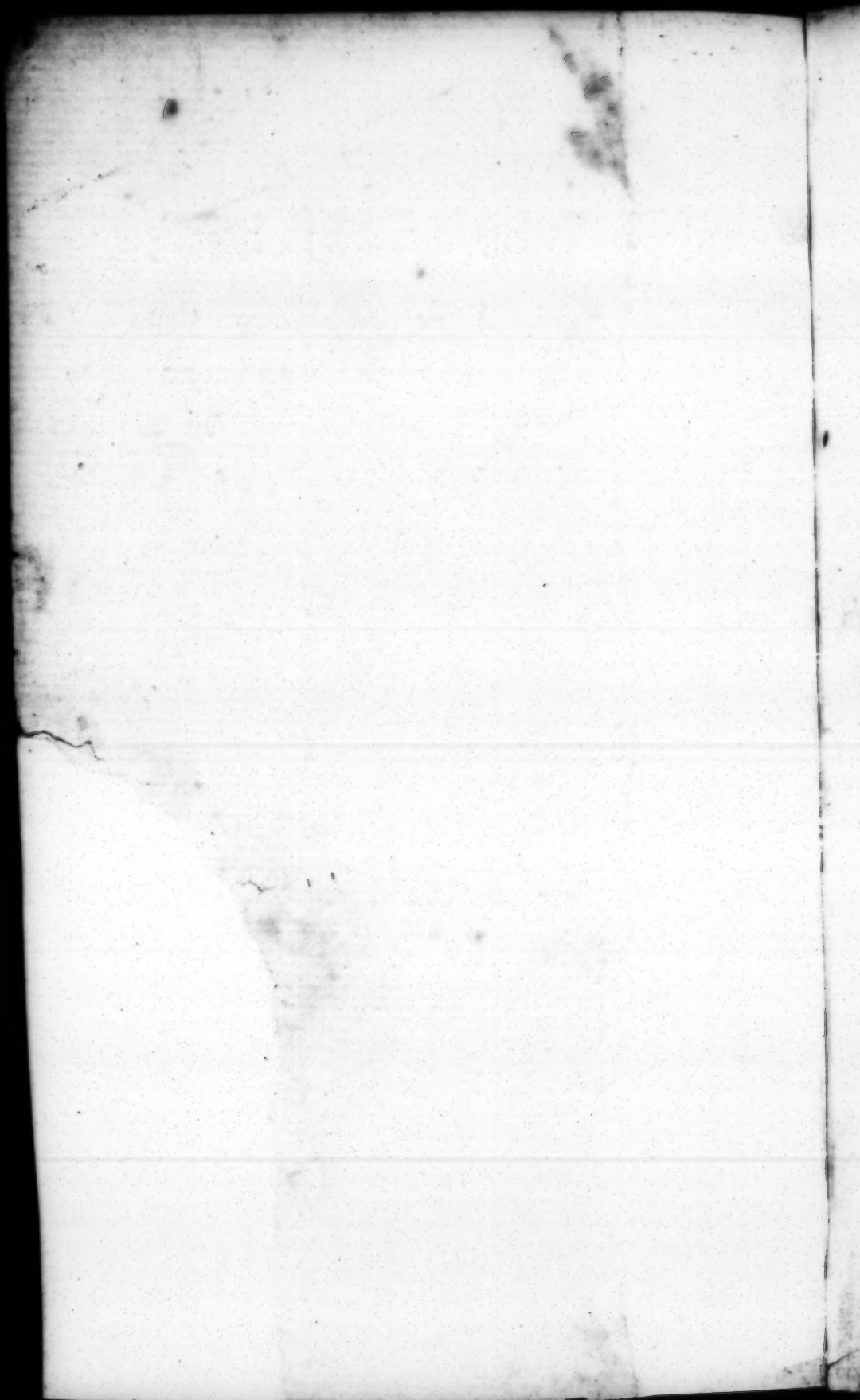
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JOHN XX. 31.

*But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have Life through his Name.*

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## THE TRUE GOSPEL of CHRIST, &c.

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**I**T was a most important Question, which was put to the Apostles, Sirs, What must I do to be saved? And the Answer they gave ought to be seriously considered by every Man: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy House; that is, believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and thou shalt be saved, and thy House also, if they believe: But in this Day, we are taught by many, to deny this Faith, and to believe that which is not written in God's Word; *to wit*, believe that your Sins are forgiven, and you shall be saved. These Authors say, that "to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; yea, to believe the whole Gospel, and all the Truths of it, is but a dead Faith, the Faith of Devils, the Faith of wicked Christians, that a Man may have it and perish; that a Man may know and believe all this, without any supernatural Aid and Assistance; that all doctrinal Truths may be owned; heartily believed, and publicly confessed, by Persons who never as yet passed under the Spirit's Work."

This is strange Doctrine, to a Man that reads and believes the Bible. Where is it written in the Bible, believe that your Sins are forgiven, and you shall be saved? Therefore, as there is no such Commandment, with Promise in the Word of God, this is no Faith, but a Lie.

As to a natural Man believing all the Gospel, without any supernatural Aid, it is not true, for the natu-

ral Man receiveth not the Things of the Spirit of God, for they are Foolishness to him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned, *1 Cor. ii. 14*. But if it was true, that a natural Man can believe the Gospel, it would not prove, that if he did it, he should perish; for is not Christ able to save a natural Man? If not, who can be saved?

As to the Faith of Devils, it has never yet been proved, that they believe all that is written in the Old and New Testament, and if they do, yet their Belief cannot be saving, because there is no Promise of Salvation made to them; but God has promised to save Mankind Sinners, if they believe the Gospel.

It is true, Simon, the wicked Man, is said to believe, which was, perhaps, his assenting with his Tongue to the Gospel, or to profess that he did believe; but believe with his Heart he did not; and this was manifest in his seeking to purchase God's Gift with Money. Men may say, I believe the Gospel, I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; I say, it is easy for a natural Man to say this, but to do it he cannot, without the Spirit of God. We are persuaded that the Act of Saving Faith, is to obey the Commandment of Christ, believe the Gospel, believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and thou shalt be saved.

Now to believe this, is to understand what is meant by the Words, so to believe the Truth with the Heart, and confess the same with the Mouth; but what is the Meaning of this Commandment, Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and thou shalt be saved, *John xx. 31*. or what does a Person do, when he obeys this Command? In obeying this Command, a Man believes only the Truth written in the Gospel; and in believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, is implied, to believe that he is the true and eternal God,

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has said: If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your Sins; except ye repent ye shall perish. Now to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, is to believe that he is able to perform all he has said to Sinners in general, and to me in particular; so that Faith is to believe only the Truth which Christ speaks in his Word. What did *Abraham* believe? What did *Peter* believe? Was it not the Truth contained in the Gospel, what God in Christ spake to them, that they believed, and only that? And this, yea this only in believing, is what God commands us to do. Therefore, whosoever obeys the Command of God, in believing with the Heart, and confessing with the Mouth, as *Peter*, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, shall be saved, because God has promised it: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have Life through his Name, *John* xx. 31. If thou shalt confess with thy Mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine Heart, that God has raised him from the Dead, thou shalt be saved, for with the Heart Man believeth unto Righteousness, and with the Mouth Confession is made unto Salvation, *Rom.* x. 9, 10.

Now this Promise is made by Christ to every Man, where the Gospel is preached; it is the Gospel the Apostles preached to every Creature, as Christ commanded them, *Mark* xvi. 15, 16. Therefore it is every Man's Duty who hears it, to believe it, with particular Application to himself, that his Sins shall be pardoned, and himself eternally saved, if he believes the Gospel, obeys the Command of God, in believing; in believing what? That his Sins are forgiven; no, but in believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, as *Peter*, according to the true Sense and Meaning of the Command; believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son  
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of God ; believe that he is faithful and true, almighty and able to perform all his Promises made to Sinners, as such, and to you in particular ; yea, so sure as our Lord Jesus Christ is true God, and able, faithful, and true, and cannot lie, so sure is my Salvation, and the Salvation of every Man, that obeys his Command, in believing the Gospel ; for he has promised it, and what, will he break his Promise ? Is that the Property of the Son of God, to break his Promise ?

If it be said there is no general Promise, what then is the Meaning of these Scriptures, *Rom. x. 9, 10, 11. John xx. 31. Ezek. 18th Chapter.* Moreover, if the Precept be to all, the Promise is to all, for God has joined them together ; but all confess, that it is the Duty of all who hear the Gospel, to believe it.

If it is the Duty of every Man, to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, then the Promise is made to every Man, for the Duty and Promise are joined together ; but it is the Duty of every Man, who hears the Gospel, to believe this, because God commands it : Therefore the Promise is made to me, and to all who hear the Gospel.

Now, will Christ perform his Promise, or will he not ? If any Man say, he will not, then he calls Christ a Liar, and so denies the Son of God. If Christ will perform his Promise, as most certainly he will, how then can any perish, who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, seeing he has promised to save all that do this. As the wounded Men, who, in looking to the brazen Serpent, were healed by the Faithfulness of Christ, giving them Life by his Blood ; just so, he that believes in Christ, that he is the Son of God, lives by the Son of God, is justified by the Faithfulness of Christ, pardoning his Sin in the Name of his Blood, as he has promised, he that believes shall live by me.

We have believed in Christ, that we might be justified by the Faith of Christ, and not by the Works of the Law, *Gal. ii. 16.* But how by the Faith of Christ? By his Faithfulness to his Promises, pardoning Sin in the Virtue of his Blood, as he has promised in the Gospel. As a Man in putting on his Garment, is clothed by the Garment he puts on, just so, he that believes in Christ, is clothed by Christ; justified by the Righteousness of Christ. Now all such as keep Christ's Commandments, in believing the Gospel; they abide in his Love; are justified by him, according to Promise.

The united Faith of these three Kingdoms, a few Years ago, as it stands in the *Westminster* Confession, is this. "The Grace of Faith, whereby the Elect  
" are enabled to believe, to the Saving of their Souls,  
" is the Work of the Spirit of Christ in their Hearts,  
" and is ordinarily wrought by the Ministry of the Word  
" &c. By this Faith, a Christian Man believeth to be  
" true, whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the  
" Authority of God speaking therein, and acteth differently upon that which each particular Passage  
" thereof containeth, yielding Obedience to the Commands, trembling at the Threatnings, and embracing the Promises of God, for this Life, and that  
" which is to come, &c. Ch. xiv. of Saving Faith."

Now does not God command all Men, where the Gospel comes, to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and has he not promised, that whosoever does obey this Commandment, by believing, shall be saved? Why then do we not obey this Commandment, and embrace this Promise? How can a Man think that he is God's Elect, has the Grace of Faith wrought in his Heart by the Spirit of Christ, if he does not obey the Command of Christ, in believing his Promise made



to Sinners, made to me. If we be Abraham's Children, we must believe as he, that what Christ has promised, he is able to perform, or in vain do we claim the Relation.

II. Whosoever obeys the Commandment of God, in believing with the Heart, and confessing with the Mouth, as *Peter* did, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, shall be saved, because all such as are born of God : Whosoever believeth that Jesus is Christ, is born of God, *1 John* v. 1. And shall not them who are born of God be saved ?

These are the Righteous, who have the Law of God in their Hearts, *Psal.* xxxvii. 31. *Jer.* xxxi. 33, 34. They know Righteousness, *Isa.* li. 7. Not so, Unbelievers ; none of the Wicked shall understand, *Dan.* xii. 10. They do not know what Faith is, nor what the Gospel is ; it is hid from them ; the God of this World blinds their Minds, *2 Cor.* iv. 3, 4. But them who obey the Command of God, as *Peter*, they know the Gospel, are born of God, and shall be saved.

If any Man can say, or think, that a Man is born of God, that Jesus is the Christ, and not be born of God, it is evident he does not believe the Report of the Gospel, nor the plain Testimony of God.

Obedience to the Command of Christ, in believing the Gospel, is a sure Evidence that a Man is born of God : Ye know that every one that doth the Commandment which the Father hath given him, shall not sin, and the sin which he doth not, shall not come to him, *1 John* ii. 29. On the contrary, if a Man transgresseth this Command, in affirming, that he is born of God, it is a sure Evidence that a Man is not born of God, but a Child of the Devil, when he openly, and without any doubt, transgresseth this Command, in affirming, that he is born of God, and yet may believe with his Heart, and confess with his Mouth, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and yet shall perish : I say, whosoever they be that affirm, that they are born of God, and yet transgress this Command, they are undoubtedly the Children of the Devil.

they make God a Liar, in not believing the Record he has given of his Son ; but he that is born of God does not so sin ; no, nor he cannot, because he knows better : He knows, that whosoever obeys the Commandment of God, in believing, as *Peter*, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, cannot perish, because God has promised to save them. Whosoever is born of God, doth not commit Sin ; for his Seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

In this the Children of God are manifest, and the Children of the Devil : Whosoever doth not Righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his Brother, *1 John* iii. 9, 10. How cannot sin ? Not that he is innocent, for there is not a just Man upon Earth, that doeth Good, and sinneth not, *Eccel.* vii. 20. If we say we have no Sin, we deceive ourselves, and the Truth is not in us, *1 John* i. 8. The Apostles were born of God, for they believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, and whosoever believes that Jesus is the Christ, is born of God, yet they were not free from all Sin, for they believed not the Doctrine of Christ, concerning his Death, Resurrection, &c. yea, they accounted it as an idle Tale, *Luke* xxiv. 11. *Mark* xvi. 9, 14. though it is true they repented of this Sin afterwards : But the Meaning I take to be this : He that is born of God, cannot sin as others do, who do not only sin, but think they ought to sin ; yea, that they do God Service in sinning against him : This did *Paul*, in his blind and unregenerate State, *Acts* xxvi. 9, 10, 11. and then our Lord speaks of, *John* xvi. 2, 3. They shall put you out of the Synagogues ; yea, the Time cometh, that whosoever killeth you, will think that he doeth God Service ; and these Things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father nor me.

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Now a Child of God cannot think that God will be pleased with his Service, in rejecting, in persecuting them who believe the Gospel; who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that whosoever believeth it shall be saved, because God, that cannot lie, has promised it: But them who are not born of God, they reject this Faith, calling it a dead Faith, the Faith of Devils, and do at this Day, as the *Jews* of Old did, persecute, and cast out them who profess it, and think they ought to do it. I have more than heard this.

Now a Child of God cannot so sin, because God has given him Power to know better; the Seed of God is in him; that is, the Word of God, understood by the Spirit of God: By this he knows that God in Christ will save him, if he believes the Gospel, because he has promised it, and he accordingly loves all that believe the Gospel, as his Brethren, the Children of his Father's House, and receives them into the closest Communion: but he that is not born of God, he is blind and ignorant, has not the Seed of God, the Word of God in him; has not the Spirit of God in him: And this is manifest to the Children of Light, because such an one pleads for, goes on in, and loves the Sin of Unbelief, blaspheming the Doctrine of Christ, the Faith of God's Elect, calling it a dead Faith, the Faith of Devils, that a Man may have it, and go to Hell; that a Man may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, yea all the Doctrines in the Bible, and yet be but a wicked Man, a Man without the Spirit.

Now in this is manifest the Children of God, and the Children of the Devil; the one hears and believes the Promises of God in Christ, the other rejects them. He that is of God heareth God's Words: Ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God,

viii. 46. When our Lord preached this Gospel, that he was the Son of God, the true God, and a sinless Man, and that whosoever believed it should be saved; but if any believed it not, they should perish: If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your Sins, *John* viii. 24.

Them who were not born of God, and heard Christ's Doctrine, they made it manifest, by denying the Truth, which he said concerning his Person, calling him a Sinner, a Blasphemer, that he was but a Man, and yet made himself God: But them who were born of God, made it manifest, in believing his Doctrine, that he is the Son of the living God, the true God, and a sinless Man: And as it was then, so it is now; unregenerate Men, when they hear the Doctrine of the Gospel preached, they call the Doctrine a Lie, and the Preacher a Liar and Deceiver: And pray, where is the Difference between calling Christ a Liar, or his Doctrine a Lie. He that heareth you, heareth me, and he that despiseth you, despiseth me; and he that despiseth me, despiseth him that sent me, *Luke* x. 16.

III. Whosoever obeys the Commandment of God, in believing with the Heart, and confessing with the Mouth, as *Peter* did, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, shall be saved, because Christ shed his Blood to save all *ch.* The Blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all Sin, 1 *John* i. 7. Us! who! what, all the World! No, for Unbelievers shall die in their Sins: But who then does this Blood cleanse! Why, us, who walk in the Light, and keep his Commandments, believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, we shall have Life through his Name. This will be the eternal Song of all Believers: To him that loved us, and washed us from our Sins in his own Blood, *Rev.* i. 5. c. v. 9, to 14.

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We may be sure of it, if we keep the Commandment of Christ, in believing the Gospel, as *Peter*, we shall be saved from eternal Death, by the Peace-speaking Blood of Christ; for it is applied to all Believers; it was shed for them, and given to them, and by it they have everlasting Peace with God. They are justified by his Blood, *Rom. v. 9*. He is their Propitiation, through Faith, in his Blood, *Rom. iii. 25*. They are washed from their Sins, in his Blood, *Rev. i. 5*. He hath put away the eternal Punishment due to their Sins, by his Blood, *Heb. ix. 26*. *John iii. 5*. He hath redeemed them to God by his Blood, *Rev. v. 9*. Finally, he hath made Peace for them, by the Blood of his Cross, *Col. i. 20, 21, 22, 23*.

Seeing then, that such who believe, as *Peter*, are born of God, Christ hath promised to save them, and also shed his Blood for the Remission of all their Sins; therefore, they cannot perish, but shall be eternally saved.

IV. Whosoever obeys the Commandment of God, in believing with the Heart, and confessing with the Mouth (as *Peter* did, *Mat. xvi. 16*.) That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, they shall be saved; because Christ ever lives to make Intercession for them; I pray for them: I pray not for the World, but for them which thou hast given me; neither, pray I for these alone, but for them also, which shall believe on me, through their Word, *John xvii. 8, 20*. Here our Lord prays, or makes Intercession, first for his Disciples, that did then believe in him, and then next for all others, that should believe as they; and, What was their Belief? Our Lord tells us, I have given unto them the Words which thou gavest me, and they have received them, and have known surely, that I came out from thee, and they have believed

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that thou didst send me, *John* xvii. 8. They believed his Doctrine, that he was the sent Messiah, the true Christ, the Son of the living God, *John* vi. 69. c. i. 49. But the Unbelievers, believed not this Doctrine of Christ: Ye believe not, because ye are not of my Sheep. What was it they did not believe? They did not believe his Doctrine, that he was the Son of God: But said, how long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly, *John* x. 24. But his Disciples, for whom he prayed, believed, and were sure of this; for these Christ prayed, and prayeth, and for all them that do now believe as they, or shall believe. Therefore, such shall be saved; wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost, that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth, to make Intercession for them, *Heb.* vii. 25. *Rom.* viii. 33, 34. 1 *John* ii. 1, 2. *Isa.* liii. 12. *John* xiv. 16, 17.

V. Whosoever obeys the Commandment of God, in believing with the Heart, and confessing with the Mouth (as *Peter* did) That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, shall be saved; because all such are God's Elect, are chosen in Christ to eternal Salvation. But, we are bound to give Thanks alway to God: For you, Brethren, beloved of the Lord, because God hath, from the Beginning, chosen you to Salvation, through Sanctification of the Spirit, and Belief of the Truth, 2 *Thess.* ii. 13.

Here plainly, such as believe the Truth, are called God's Chosen, his Elect; the Rest are known by this Mark, because they received not the Love of the Truth, that they might be saved; and for this Cause God shall send them strong Delusion, that they should believe a Lie, that they all might be damned who believe not the Truth, but had Pleasure in Unrighteousness,

ousness, v. 10, 11, 12. Not so; God's Elect, they believe the Truth, and are known by that Character.

Now, what was the Faith of these Elect ones? They believed, that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God; and that so believing they should have Life through his Name: But them, who say this Faith, is a dead Faith. The Faith of Devils, that a Man may perish who has it, manifest themselves to be Reprobates, because they believe a Lie; blaspheme and reject the Faith of God's Elect; but, such as believe with the Heart, are God's Elect; therefore, cannot perish, because God the Father, Word, and Holy Ghost, hath set them apart to eternal Life, promised to save them: All that the Father gives me shall come to me, and him that cometh, I will in no wise cast out, *John vi. 37.* My Sheep, hear my Voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and I give unto them eternal Life, and they shall never perish; neither shall any pluck them out of my Hand: My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and none is able to pluck them out of my Father's Hand, *John x. 27, 28, 29.*

All who pretend to believe the Scriptures, agree in this, that God's Elect, and true Believers, are one and the same Person's; and we have proved, that our Faith, denominates a Person a true Believer, and shall not God's Elect be saved. Who shall lay any Thing to the Charge of God's Elect? It is God that justifieth, *Rom. viii. 33.*

VI. Whosoever obeys the Commandment of God, in believing with the Heart, and confessing with the Mouth (as *Peter*) That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, shall be saved; because all such have the true Apostolic Faith, the Faith once delivered to the Saints. What was *Peter's* Faith? We

believe, and are sure, that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God, *John* vi. 69. What was the Man's Faith of whom our Lord testified, Behold an *Israelite* indeed, in whom is no Guile? It was this: *Rabbi*, Thou art the Son of God, thou art the King of *Israel*, *John* i. 49. What was the Faith of the believing Eunuch, whom *Philip* baptized? I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, *Acts* viii. 37. What was the Faith of *Martha*, whom Jesus loved?--- I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, *John* v. 27. What was the Faith of the Woman of *Samaria*, and the believing *Samaritans*?---Come, see a Man which told me all Things that ever I did, is not this the Christ? Now, we believe, not because of thy Saying: For, we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the World, *John* iv. 29, 42. Finally, as there is but one Lord, so there is but one true, and saving Faith; one Lord, one Faith, *Eph.* iv. 5. and this is it; therefore, every Soul, who has this Faith, is a Member of the true Apostolic Church, is a Member of Christ's mystical Body; all such are Members of his Body, of his Flesh, and of his Bones, *Eph.* v. 30. Have the Spirit of Christ; for, by one Spirit are we all baptized into one Body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit, *1 Cor.* xii. 13. I say, all who have the same Thoughts in their Hearts as *Peter* had, and make the same Confession with their Mouths as he did, when he said, Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God, every one of these, are in eternal Union, by the Spirit and Gospel, with Christ, and the true Apostolic Church; but such as deny this Faith, and call it a dead Faith, the Faith



Faith of Devils, the Faith of wicked Men, that a Man may have it and perish, these are undoubtedly Members of Antichrist, because they deny the Faith, make Christ a Liar, by saying such shall perish, whom he has promised to save; yea, such who have the Spirit of Christ, and are Members of the true Apostolic Church, Christ has promised to give his Spirit to all such: He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his Belly shall flow Rivers of living Waters: But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believed on him should receive, *John vii. 38, 39.* and will not Christ perform his promise?

VII. Whosoever obeys the Commandment of God, in believing with the Heart, and confessing with the Mouth, (as *Peter* did) that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, shall not perish, but have everlasting Life; because all such have a living Faith, the Faith that overcomes the World, the Faith that works by Love, brings forth much Fruit; even good Works, the Evidences of a true Faith: And this is the Victory that overcometh the World, even our Faith. Who is he that overcometh the World, but he that believeth, that Jesus is the Son of God, *1 John, v. 4, 5.* to understand this Gospel as the Apostles did, or to believe it with the Heart as they, and to confess the same with the Mouth as they did such, when they have Opportunity, will bring forth Fruit.

It is manifest this Faith brought forth much Fruit in the Apostles; they left all and followed Christ, *Mat. xix. 27.* They kept his Commandments, did those Things which are pleasing in his Sight, confessing Christ before Men, suffering for the Truths Sake, being beaten, imprisoned, banished, yea put to Death, yea in Obedience to Christ, they loved and

prayed for their Enemies, gave Alms of such Things as they had, confessed their Sins, made it their Study to keep a Conscience void of Offence, both towards God and Men; finally this their Faith brought forth much Fruit, the Fruits of the Spirit, Love, Joy, Peace, Long-suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance: Yea, through this Faith, they had Abundance of Peace and Joy, being fully assured of their own Salvation, that there was laid up for them a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge, would give to them; and not only to them, but to all that loved the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, even all that obeyed the Gospel as they; yea they were sure that nothing should separate them from the Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Is not this then a living Faith, which has produced such wonderful Effects, brought forth such Abundance of good Fruit: Are they not then great Sinners against their own Souls, who call this Faith a dead Faith, the Faith of wicked Men, the Faith of Devils, that a Man may have it and perish; this is the great Sin of Unbelief, that ruins Men: But we have proved the Contrary, that this Faith is a living Faith, the Faith of God's Children; and that whosoever has it shall be saved; because God has promised it, because such are born of God, because the Blood of Christ cleanseth them from all Sin: Christ ever lives to make Intercession for them; they are God's Elect, they have the one true Apostolic Faith; they have that Faith which overcomes the World, that brings forth much Fruit; it brought forth Fruit in the *Colossians*, Col. i. 5, 6. 1 *Thess.* i. 10.

Well then, Sirs, you that say, that there is Power comes along with the Gospel, that there is an Aptness and Ability in a reasonable Creature, even now under the

the Fall, to know and believe without any supernatural Aid and Assistance: Why then do you not use this Power. If you have Power to believe all the Gospel, why then do you not do it? Why do not you confess Christ before Men, own his Gospel? Why do you deny the Gospel, calling it a dead Faith, the Faith of Devils, that a Man may have it and perish? How shall Christ be the Son of God, holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from Sinners, and you be saved? Seeing he has expressly said, "He that believeth not shall be damned." Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest he tear you in Pieces, and there be none to deliver.

But forasmuch as the Belief of Devils is often spoken of in this Argument, let us see what that is, what is *Simon's* Belief, or stony-ground Hearers; and then how *Peter's* Faith excels both. First, What is the Faith of Devils, *James* tells us, thou believest there is one God; thou dost well, the Devils also believe and tremble, *James* ii. 19. They know there is one God, and they know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the most high God; and they know that Jesus Christ will destroy them because God has told them so, *Gen.* iii. 15. *I* will put Enmity between thee and the Woman, and between thy Seed and her Seed; it shall bruise thy Head, and thou shalt bruise his Heel. This Word he believes with Application to himself; therefore, he says to Christ, art thou come to torment us before the Time, *Mat.* viii. 28, 29. *Mark* v. 7. Well they know, they believe they are sure, that there is one God, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, actually come in the Flesh, as revealed in the New Testament; and they are sure he will destroy them, because God has told them so; therefore they tremble, so that Satan is  
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not an Atheist, nor a Jew, who denies that Jesus Christ is come in the Flesh. Secondly, What is *Simon's* Belief, or the stony-ground Hearers? It is, not only a Conviction that there is a God, and that Jesus Christ is the true Messiah, which was promised in the Prophets, *John* vii. 10, 40, 41. c. xii. 42, 43. But it is also, a consenting to, or receiving with Joy for a Season, the Promise made to Sinners, in, and by Christ. Believe on the Lord Jesus and thou shalt be saved. If thou shalt confess with thy Mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine Heart, that God hath raised him from the Dead, thou shalt be saved, *Rom.* x. 9, 10. Now, this Promise with Precept, being made to every Man where the Gospel comes; therefore, it is the Duty of every Man to believe it with Application to himself, and say, I shall have Salvation by Christ, if I obey his Commandment, in believing the Gospel, because God has promised it to me. This was the Word the stony-ground Hearers received with Joy, and professed for a Season. But the Devils cannot believe this, because there is no such Promise made to them; yea, they are not under this Law of Faith, which God in Christ has put Men under; but they are under the Law of Works, do and live, sin and die. Therefore it is not their Duty to believe this, because God has never commanded them so to do. He never said to Devils, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. Now this Promise, is the Thing, that makes the Difference, between the Faith of Devils, and the Faith of stony-ground Hearers.

Is there not a vast Difference between the Devils believing that God is, that Christ is, and that he will destroy them; and the stony-ground Hearers believing, that God is, that Christ is, and that he has  
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promised to save them, if they obey his Commandment: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Thirdly, The Faith of *Peter* is all this and more, not only believing that God is, that Christ is, that the Promise is made to him, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved; but also an Understanding given, to understand the Gospel, or Promise made to Sinners. This the stony-ground Hearers had not, they had not Root in themselves; and this was manifest in the Hour of Temptation; by their being offended, quitting their Profession of the Promise, they had before received: But Peter and all true Believers, have an Understanding given them, to know the Meaning of the Gospel; unto you it is given to know the Mysteries of the Kingdom, but unto them it is not given, *Mat. xiii. 11.* He hath given us an Understanding to know him that is true, 1st *John, v. 20.* By this, the good-ground Hearers, are distinguished from all the Rest; they hear the Word and understand it, who also bear Fruit, *Mat. xiii. 23.* But it is not said of any of the others, that they understand the Word; nay, it is written, that none of the Wicked shall understand, but the Wise shall understand, *Dan. xii. 10.* Therefore, if any Man hear this Doctrine of Christ, this Gospel, and Belief of *Peter*, and yet has no Conviction in his Conscience, that it is the Truth, nor yet receives this Gospel, or Word with Joy, nor professes to believe it, but denies and rejects it as a Falshood; such a Person has no Faith at all, he has nothing of that Thing, which is called believing, in the New Testament among Men: He is so far from having saving Faith, that he has not the Faith of *Simon*, or the stony-ground Hearers; for the stony-ground Hearers received the Word with Joy; and what Word could that be, but the Gospel preached to them.

them. The Promise made to every Man, where the Gospel comes, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy House. Well, I say, if any Man reject this general Promise, he has not the common Belief of Men, he has nothing, neither in Hand nor in Promise; so living, and so dying. He that believes not shall be damned; he that believes not the general Promise made to Sinners, with particular Application to himself, shall be damned for his Unbelief, for rejecting God's Promises made to him, rejecting that Love and Grace of God, that makes the Difference, between fallen Angels and fallen Man.

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my Words, hath one that judgeth him, the Word that I have spoken, the same shall Judge him in the last Day, *John* xii. 48. Nay I will go further, if any Man, be he Conformist, or Non-conformist, be he Presbeterian, Independant, Baptist, Quaker, Moravian, or Methodist, I say whoever it be, if they do not make a Profession of this Gospel, openly before Men, they have not so much Faith as the Stony-ground Hearers had; for they received this Gospel with Joy, and believed for a while, *Luke* viii. 13. Which was no doubt, to make a Profession, that they did believe the Gospel, else what did they fall from. "He falls off from all his former Profession of the Gospel." *Pool's Anot.* Nay there is not, there cannot be, either the Object, Act, or Grace of Faith, without this Gospel here declared, for this Gospel is the only Object of Faith; to understand this Gospel is the Grace of Faith, or that which distinguishes, the Regenerate from the Unregenerate, as we have proved before, and the Act of Faith is to believe with the Heart, and confess with the Mouth, this Gospel before Men, as *Peter*, *John*, and *Paul*, as we have also proved. I say this Gospel is the only  
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Object of Faith, which distinguishes Men from Devils, and the Faith of Men from their Faith; they have that Doctrine of Faith, which God in Christ has given to them, and Men have that Doctrine of Faith, which God gives to them, and they are happy that understand, receive, and keep this Gift, as *Peter* did; but they are miserable that cast away this Gift; and because they cast it away, they were disobedient. &c. and cast thy Law behind their Backs, and slew thy Prophets, *Neh. ix. 26.* Therefore as the Fire devour-eth the Stubble, and the Flame consumeth the Chaff, so their Root shall be as Rottenness, and their Blossom shall go up as Dust, because they have cast away the Law of the Lord of Hosts, and despised the Word of the holy One of *Israel, Isa. v. 24.* But blessed are they that do his Commandments; he that hath my Commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father; and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. He that loveth me not, keepeth not my Sayings, *John xxi. 24.*

Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the Doctrine of Christ, hath not God; he that abideth in the Doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son: If there come any unto you and bring not this Doctrine, receive him not into your House; neither bid him God Speed, for he that biddeth him God Speed, is partaker of his vile Deeds, 2 *John ix. 10. 11.*

But it may be some will still object, and say, is there not a dead Faith, as well as a living One; Is it not written, for as the Body without the Spirit is dead, so Faith without Works is dead also, *Jam. ii. 26.* Now what is this Faith, which is like a Body without a Spirit. We have already opened this in  
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Part, when we shew'd what the Faith of Devils is, what the Faith of the Stony-ground Hearers, and what the Faith of *Peter*. This dead Faith is not to believe all that is written in the Old and New Testament ; for our Lord's Disciples could not do all that, although they were born of God, till they had received Power from on High ; more of the Spirit, they did not so much, as, assent to the Doctrine of Christ, concerning his Death, Resurrection, &c. But accounted it an idle Tale, and believed it not, *Luke xxiv. 11.* Yea, *Peter* said, this shall not be unto thee, *Mat. xvi. 22.* And, for this their Sin of Unbelief, our Lord reprov'd them, saying, O Fools, and slow of Heart, to believe all that the Prophets have said, *Luke xxiv. 25.* Now, if Men born of God, as we are sure these were, could not assent to all Christ's Doctrine, till such Time, as they did receive more of the Spirit, and Power of the Holy Ghost, from the Father, through a risen Jesus ; how shall an unregenerate Man believe all the Gospel, what can an unregenerate Man, a Man dead in Trespasses and Sins, do more than a living Man, a Man born of God : But this dead Faith, which is like a Body without a Spirit, is a Man saying he believes. What doth it profit, my Brethren, though a Man say, he hath Faith, *James ii. 14.* Now Men know, that saying, and doing are two Things : This was the Religion of our Lord's Enemies, they say and do not, *Mat. xxiii. 3.* This Kind of Faith is as easy, as it is common ; it is as easy for a Man to say, he believes all the Bible, as it is for a Man to tell a Lye, and that is both common, and easy among sinful Men ; now the utmost Extent of this dead Faith, is to have the Memory stored, with the Doctrines of the Gospel, so that a Man can talk  
of



of Christ, of his Person, of his Obedience, his Righteousness, his Death, his Resurrection, Intercession, second Coming, Imputation of Sin, Imputation of Christ's Righteousness, Regeneration, Faith, Love, the Gospel, the Pardon of Sin, Justification by Faith without Works, Perfection, Perseverance, Resurrection, the last Judgment, Rewards and Punishments, &c. Yea, whatsoever is contained in the Bible, a Man may have his Memory stuffed with Scripture Words, and yet at the same Time have but dead a Faith, because he wants the Spirit of the Words, I say if a Man had all the Bible off by Heart, and yet did not know the Meaning of it, he has but a dead Faith: His Faith wants its Soul, wants the quickning Spirit of God, to open his Understanding, to understand the Mind of God, in the Words of God; and so long as he wants this, he can no more do good Works, in obeying the Gospel, or Law of Faith, than a Body without a Soul, can plow or sow; do the Works of a living Man; and herein lies the great Folly of Men, in taking up Words of Scripture, without ever enquiring, what is the Meaning of these Words: But they who fear God, cry to God, to give them Power to understand his Word; give me Understanding, and I shall live, *Psa. cxix. 144.* Lord what wilt thou have me to do? *Act ix. 6.* And God gives them an Understanding, as he has promised; ask, and it shall be given; every one that asketh receiveth, *Mat. vii. 8.* And that they have this Wisdom, is manifest, in their doing the Things, which Christ has commanded, believing the Gospel, and loving one another, &c.

But Men who have a dead Faith, the Words of God in their Mouths, without any Understanding of the Meaning in their Hearts: This is manifest, in what they say and do; I say, manifest, not to all

Men, but to the Children of Light, who have Power given them, to discern between Good and Bad, Righteousness and Wickedness. This, I say, is manifest to the Children of Light, who are of full Age; even those, who by Reason of Use, have their Senses exercised, to discern both Good and Evil, *Heb. v. 14*. But how is it manifest to them, how, our Lord tells us, a corrupt Tree, bringeth forth corrupt Fruit; an evil Man, out of the evil Treasure of his Heart, bringeth forth evil Things; for, of the Abundance of the Heart, the Mouth speaketh, *Mat. xii. 34. 35*.

Therefore, when any Man has the Words, Righteousness, the Gospel, the Pardon of Sin, &c. in his Mouth, and yet constantly goes on in Sin, speaking Lies against God, yea, teaching Men to believe a Lie; by this it is evident, such a Man has but a dead Faith, no Understanding, what Righteousness, or the Gospel Means: I say, by this, it is evident, he has a wicked Heart; although he talks ever so loud, of Righteousness, the Gospel, the Pardon of Sin; I say, although he talks ever so loud of these Words with his Tongue, yet he has a wicked Heart, and this is manifest to the Children of God, who are come to full Age, because they see and know, that he works Wickedness, in sinning against God, and teaching others to sin also, by telling them, that the Belief of all the Truths of the Bible, is but a dead Faith; the Faith of Devils; the Faith of wicked Christians; that a Man may have it and perish. Now, by this false Doctrine, it is manifest, that such Men have a wicked Heart, because they transgress the Command of God: First, in not confessing the Truth, that whosoever believes the Truths, contained in the Gospel, shall be saved, because God has promised it. Secondly, they sin, in openly denying, and opposing the Truth, in calling the

the Belief of the Truth, a dead Faith; the Faith of Devils; the Faith of wicked Christians; that a Man may have it and perish: Now, by this Fruit, these Lies against God, the Wickedness of Men's Hearts are known; but this is a Sin, that a Child of God cannot commit, because he is born of God, knows himself, a good Tree cannot bring forth this evil Fruit.

Is there not Evidence enough here then, to show what a dead Faith is; and what, if any of you that profess of this dead Faith, have the Confidence that you have Freedom from Sin, not one among you? How can we believe him? What, if a Man that has been in the grave Department, come and tell you that he has the Will of God, that I should not have Freedom from Sin, not one among you would believe him? Well, then, what is the Evidence that would have me believe him? The Truths in the Bible; which I have said, a Man may have it and perish; but I will not let it go away from my Soul, all the while I live. The Assurance as a Man's Blood, is the Assurance that I have is the Belief of the Truth, that I have said, I will say the Truths of the Gospel, because I have said.

And, all who teach this wicked Doctrine, they claim Perfection, yea or no, they are Soul Murderers: As Troops of Men, so the Company of Priests, are by Consent; for they commit the same Sin. But not so, the Man that hears this Doctrine, understands it, he brings forth Fruit, by confessing the Truths of the Gospel, as Peter, in Obedience to the Commandment, confidently affirming, that every Man that says that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, shall be saved, because God has promised it; yea, the

this true and only Gospel, brought forth Fruit abundantly, in the Apostles and Saints, in former Ages, as we have proved.

If any say, I do not know what Faith is, nor what the Gospel is; therefore, I cannot believe, what shall I do? Ans. You must use the Means of Grace, hearing this Gospel preached, search the Scriptures, pray to God to give you his Spirit, and Power to believe the Gospel; and also confess to God your Ignorance.

God has commanded us to hear his Word preached, for Faith comes by Hearing, and Hearing by the Word of God, *Rom. x. 17.* Again, it is written, Gather the People together, Men and Women, and Children, and thy Stranger, that is within thy Gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the Words of this Law, *Deut. xxxi. 12.* Again, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the Manner of some is, *Heb. x. 35.* Moreover, you must search the Scriptures, and try all Doctrines by that Rule. Search the Scriptures, *John v. 39.* Prove all Things, *1 Thess. v. 21.* Beloved, believe not every Spirit, but try the Spirits, whether they are of God; because many false Prophets are gone out into the World, *1 John iv.* Thus the noble Bereans did, *Acts xvii. 11.* Moreover, you must confess your Ignorance to God, and pray to him for his Spirit and Power, to enable you to understand what the Gospel is, and to believe it; for, he has said, ask and it shall be given, seek and ye shall find, &c. *Mat. vii. 7, 8.* *Luke xi. 9.---13.* *Prov. ii. 3.---6.* *Jam. i. 5.* Now, if Men had Power without God's Spirit, to know and believe the Gospel, what Use would their Promises be of. Moreover, the Saints have confessed their Ignorance to God, so foolish was I and ignorant, I was as a Beast before thee,



thee, *Psa.* lxxiii. 22. Again, surely, I am more brutish than any Man, and have not the Understanding of a Man, *Prov.* xxx. 2. All the Children of God are brought to this, before they can know so much, as what the Gospel is. Moreover, our Lord has said, if any Man will do his Will, he shall know of the Doctrine, whether it be of God, *John* vii. 17. Moreover, I have been in this very Strait myself, and in the Use of this Means: God did shew me his Gospel, which I have here published, and others of my Brethren, have also come to the Knowledge, of this true and only Gospel, in the Use of God's appointed Means, hearing, searching the Scriptures, and Prayer; but, if Men will stay in their Houses, when they might hear the Gospel preached, will not search the Scriptures, but take Things up against God, and his Gospel, because Men affirm them, will not pray to God for Wisdom; but, in their Ignorance, think a Man may know and believe, without any supernatural Aid --- Yea, that a wicked Man may believe all the Scriptures, is it not just for God, to leave such Persons, in Ignorance and Blindness, seeing they sin wilfully, in rejecting Knowledge, by wilfully neglecting the Means of Knowledge, which they know is in their Power to use? Because thou hast rejected Knowledge, I will also reject thee, *Hosea* iv. 6. Again, this is the Condemnation, that Light is come into the World, and Men loved Darkness, rather than Light, because their Deeds are evil; for every one that doeth Evil, hateth the Light, neither cometh to the Light, lest his Deeds should be reproved, *John* iii. 19, 20, 21. Take Heed, therefore, and do not neglect the Means of Grace, which God has commanded us to use.

If any Man be convinced of the Truth, contained in the Gospel, and yet will not make an open Profession

sign of it, for Fear of Man, or Love of this present World, such an one, is condemned already, by the Law of Christ. Whosoever, therefore, shall be ashamed of me, and of my Words, in this adulterous and hypocritical Generation; of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when he cometh in the Glory of his Father, with the holy Angels, *Mat. viii. 38.*

And he that receiveth the Truth, contained in the Gospel, and makes an open Profession of the same, shall also make the Profession of his Faith, in the midst of Tribulations, and Persecutions; for, he that will save his Soul, shall be saved, *Mat. xxiv.* And he that will not be so, let him go to such, if ye cannot be reconciled to me, ye are my Disciples indeed; for ye shall be hated of all Men, and the Truth shall make you free. To the same Purpose, *John viii. 23.* And you that are not reconciled to me, shall be reconciled in your Mind, and shall be reconciled to me; for ye shall be reconciled to me in your Death, to present you to me as acceptable in his Sight; for ye shall be grounded and settled, and shall be able to bring forth the Hope of the Gospel, which was preached to e-  
 ven the Angels in under Heaven, whereof I

am the Shepherd, to eternal Life, for ye shall be grounded in the Belief and Confession of the Gospel, if at any Time they shall be raised up again: For I have given them the Father's Grace, my Sheep shall never perish, I know them, and they shall never be taken away from me, I give unto them eternal Life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my Hand, *John x. 27, 28.*

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The Remnant of *Israel* shall not do Iniquity, nor speak Lies; they shall trust in the Name of the Lord, *Isa. iii. 12, 13.* Also *Ezek. xxxvi. 25---28. Jer. xxxi. 33, 34.* But, what Faith was it, that *Paul, John, and Peter*, with the Rest of God's Elect, continued in, held fast the Profession of, was it not this? These are written, that ye might believe, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing, ye might have Life through his Name, *John x. 31.*

Well then, if we be God's Elect, we must hold fast the Profession of this Gospel, as they did: I say, this Gospel, preached by God to every Man, where his Word comes, as we have proved. The Sum of the matter then is this, all those who believe, and profess this Gospel, as *Peter*, and persevere in their Profession, those are God's Elect. But such as deny this Gospel, or for a Time profess it, as the Stony-ground Hearers, and afterwards deny, and so persevere to their Lives End: Those are such, whom the Scripture calls Reprobates. He that believes not shall be damned. Reprobate Silver shall Men call them, because the Lord hath rejected them, *Jer. vi. 30.* But such as believe the Gospel, in Obedience to the Command of Christ, shall be saved, because he has promised it, and he is faithful and true, cannot lye; therefore true Believers cannot perish.

May God, in Mercy, grant us Grace to know the Gospel; to believe and profess it before Men, in Obedience to his Command; and to persevere in the same to our Lives End; and so we shall have an abun-

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abundant Entrance into the  
Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ  
whom with the Father, and Holy Spirit  
be all Glory, Honour, Might,  
and Dominion, now and for ever  
*Amen.*

F I N I S



